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faster than the crust, is false; (2) the notion of a "depth" into which "subsidence-fields" have fallen is unfounded, and no such "depth" has ever existed; (3) the theory that continental "clods" that have refused to sink contradicts all established laws of statics. Two hypotheses, however, of the "passive plutonists" he adopts. (1) There has taken place a cooling of worlds, especially of the earth, and this cooling process is still going on. (2) The interior of the earth is yet much hotter than the exterior. He shows that the exterior must cool off faster, and hence shrink more than the interior, and that fissures are thus best explained which have gradually become filled with deposits and eruptive products. The cause of the various inequalities of the earth's surface, the author finds in "hydrothermal processes." There is going on a constant, though slow, circulation in the earth, especially in its crust, a circulation of heat and water like that of the water in the atmosphere. Volcanoes are, as it were, fountains, for which the "hydrothermal processes" furnish the needful hydrostatic pressure. Most islands and mountains have arisen through many slight and partial upheavals, not by one sudden convulsion. In the last chapter the author discusses the origin of granite and its connection with volcanic formations. E. L. S.

The Mother of California. By Arthur Walbridge North. xi and 169 pp., Illustrations, Maps, Appendix, and Index. Paul Elder & Company, San Francisco and New York. (Price, \$2.)

The conspicuous fact concerning this book is that it is the only work yet published that tells concisely and clearly the remarkable story of Lower California, a great region at our very doors that has been as poorly mapped and as little known as many of the out-of-the-way corners of the world. To perform this useful task Mr. North dug into the Spanish records from first to last and took from them all the facts essential to make a vivid and consecutive narrative of the history of Baja California. He supplemented this work by extended journeys into the peninsula for the study of its geography, its fauna and flora, its human remains, its inhabitants of to-day, its resources of all kinds, and its prospects of development.

The result is that he supplies in a comparatively small book the material required to give to his readers a comprehensive idea of what the great peninsula has been, what it is, and what it may become. He has thus made a very useful contribution to geographical literature. About half of the volume is given to the history of the peninsula and the remainder to a description of the physical, political and social conditions of lower California and its mineral and other resources. The maps are adequate and the other illustrations, from the author's own photographs, are good and striking.

Weltkatastrophen. Betrachtungen über die zukünftigen Schicksale unserer Erdenwelt. Von M. Wilhelm Meyer. 193 pp., Hermann Paetel, Berlin, 1907. (Price, M. 1.50.)

One of a series of small volumes published by Paetel which are designed to present historical and scientific subjects in a way to interest and edify the youth of Germany. Among the topics in this volume (No. 22 of the series) are earthquakes, comets, meteorites, solar radiation, and the future of the earth. These books contain the best results of research and the latest thought in several departments of knowledge, so far as they are adapted for the consideration of young readers.